

Message Text

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43

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SUBJ: NIMAIRI GOES TO PEOPLE

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NIMAIRI, WITH ANNOUNCED TWO-WEEK TOUR OF PROVINCES AND FIRST OF SERIES OF MONTHLY RADIO AND TV ADDRESSES, HAS CLEARLY BEGUN CAMPAIGN OF GOING TO PEOPLE IN ATTEMPT RESPOND TO AND DAMPER DOWN POPULAR DISCONTENT EVIDENT IN LAST TWO MONTHS. NIMAIRI IS GOOD AT THIS SORT OF APPROACH, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HIS WORDS AND PERSONALITY ALONE ARE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME DISCONTENT BASED ON BREAD AND BUTTER ECONOMIC ISSUES.

END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT TO TOUR COUNTRY: PRESS JULY 9 ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT NIMAIRO WILL LEAVE JULY 12 FOR TWO-WEEK APPARENTLY CONTINUOUS TOUR OF SOME 44 CITIES AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY (EXCLUDING ONLY KHARTOUM PROVINCE). OFFICIAL AIM OF TRIP IS TO STIMULATE POLITICAL ACTIVITY, NAMELY ORGANIZATION OF SSU BASIC UNITS AND LOCAL BRANCHES OF OTHER POPULAR AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS, BUT NIMAIRI WILL ALSO MEET WITH PEOPLE AT ALL STOPS AND CLEARLY WILL ADDRESS HIMSELF WITH ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THEM.

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3. NIMAIRI FIRESIDE CHAT: IN SIMILAR VEIN, NIMAIRI EVENING JULY

9 HELD FIRST OF WHAT PROMISED TO BE SERIES RADIO AND TV ADDRESSES TO NATION. SPEECHES TO TAKE PLACE FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AND NIMAIRI STATED HE WOULD ANSWER PERSONALLY QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO HIM BY PEOPLE. PRESIDENT USED THIS FORMAT LAST NIGHT RESPONDING TO FOUR QUESTIONS (SEE USIS KHARTOUM TEL JULY 10 SENT INFO STATE). AMONG POINTS OF INTEREST WERE STRESS NIMAIRI PLACED ON FAILURE POPULAR ORGANIZATION LEADERS TO HAVE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN REVOLUTION AT TIME PRICE INCREASES IN MAY. IT WAS HIS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THIS LACK OF FAITH THAT LED NIMAIRI TO "THINK OF RESIGNING" (HE DENIED HE ACTUALLY RESIGNED) AND HE EXPECTED THAT FORTHCOMING NEW LESSONS FOR VARIOUS SSU ELEMENTS WILL GIVE PEOPLE OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT TRUE SUPPORTERS OF REVOLUTION. IN DISCUSSING FORCES WORKING AGAINST COUNTRY IT INTERESTING THAT NIMAIRI ONLY SINGLED OUT ISRAEL WITH NO APPARENT HINT OF ANTI REGIME ACTIVITIES OF, FOR EXAMPLE, PAN-ARAB OR OUTSIDE COMMUNIST FORCES. FINALLY ON SUPPLY, NIMAIRI FRANK TO ADMIT SHORTAGES, BLAMING VARIETY OF FACTORS FROM NATURAL CAUSES, TO ARAB COUNTRY INCREASES IN PETROLEUM PRICES, TO SMUGGLING OF DURRA INTO CHAD FROM DARFUR THUS CREATING SHORTAGES IN WEST. HE OFFERED NO QUICK SOLUTIONS SAYING MATTERS EITHER OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT CONTROL OR AS WITH CASE OF ROADS AND PIPELINE WILL TAKE TIME. PEOPLE MUST UNDERSTAND.

4. COMMENT: NIMAIRI TACTIC OF GOING TO PEOPLE IS THE FIRST INSTANCE ADMISSION THAT EVERYTHING IS NOT RIGHT, THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POPULAR UNHAPPINESS WITH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. IT IS ALSO CLEVER USE OF ONE OF PRESIDENT'S STRONGEST POINTS, HIS ABILITY TO COME ACROSS WITH SINCERITY TO ORDINARY MAN IN STREET. EMBASSY LOCALS COMMENT THAT SUCH WAS CASE ON ADDRESS LAST EVENING IN WHICH NIMAIRO GAVE IMPRESSION OF GREAT FRANKNESS AND IN HIS MANNER AND HIS USE OF EVERYDAY SUDANESE ARABIC MADE VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION. AT LEAST AT START NIMAIRI NOT FALLING INTO TRAP OF PROMISING INSTANT ANSWERS, BUT WHETHER PASSING BLAME TO FACTORS, PAST AND PRESENT, BEYOND CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT AND CALLING FOR RENEWED FAITH IN REVOLUTION WILL PROVIDE LONG TERM ANSWER REMAINS BE SEEN. MOREOVER IF PRESIDENT MAKES UNSWERVING FAITH IN MAY REVOLUTION--I.E. "YES" MEN--THE TEST FOR HOLDING KEY POSITIONS, HIS AND SUDAN'S PROBLEMS CAN ONLY INCREASE.

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